

## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences**

#### **• NIDMAR**

The National Institute of Disability Management and Research is a national business, labour, government and educational non-profit organization that provides national and international innovation, leadership and program development in reducing the socio-economic costs of disability to employers, workers and society.

Launched in 1994, NIDMAR is supported by a broad-based Board of Directors with senior representatives from across Canada.

NIDMAR operates in three principal areas related to return to work and disability management: educational programming, professional certification, and program measurement.

#### **• NIDMAR educational programming**

NIDMAR's educational programming is offered through formal licensing arrangements at 17 universities in nine countries around the world. Online, NIDMAR offers its educational program with approximately 1,200 student modules each year to participants from Canada, U.S., Europe, South Africa, South Korea and China.

Total investment in curriculum development between 1994 and 2007 has been approximately \$3 million. Total investment in the educational, professional certifications and program standards has been approximately \$25 million.

#### **• Facts about workplace injuries and disabilities**

##### **Internationally**

- 2 million workers are killed through industrial accidents and disease annually\*
- 60 million work-related permanent disabilities occur annually\*
- 270 million work accidents occur annually\*
- \$1.25 trillion U.S. cost to employers, workers and society annually, or 4% of global GDP\*

\* Source: (ILO, 2005)

### **In Canada**

- Over 1,000 workers were killed on the job in Canada in 2005 – five times the rate of countries such as Germany, and the highest per capita fatality rate in the western industrialized world
- Approximately 24,000 permanent disabilities occur annually
- Total cost of workers compensation, approximately \$5.5 billion annually
- Total cost of employer payroll deductions for workers compensation, short-term and long-term disability, approximately \$14 billion annually
- Cost of the entire Canadian workers compensation system in 2005 – in excess of \$7 billion

### **In British Columbia**

- 188 workers were killed on the job in 2005 – the highest number in 25 years
- Approximately 2,500 to 3,000 permanent disabilities occur annually
- 65,000 compensable accidents annually

### **For people with disabilities across Canada**

- 55% live below the poverty line (Source: Canada Pension Plan Disability Program)
- Annual hiring rate: approximately 1% (Source: Employment Equity Act Annual Report, 2005)
- Labour force participation rate: 2.5% (Source: Employment Equity Act Annual Report, 2005)